

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 22-26, 29 and 31-33 are pending in the application.

In the Office Action of March 23, 2005 (the "Office Action"):

1. Specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter;
2. Claims 22, 23, 25, 26, 31 and 32 are objected to for informalities, but would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph, as set forth in the Office Action;
3. Claim 33 is rejected as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention, but would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph, as set forth in the Office Action; and
4. Claims 24 and 29 are allowed.

1. Objection to the Specification

In original Claim 25, "degrees of motion" were "coupled to driven elements of the interface." However, as the Examiner correctly points out, the "degrees of motion" are a capability of the distal end effector relative to the proximal interface. They are not structural elements.

Accordingly, Claim 25 has been amended so that it is the "distal end effector" that is "coupled to driven elements", instead of the objected to "degrees of motion", and with such amendment, the objection to the Specification is believed to be overcome.

2. Claim Objections

Claims 22, 23, 25, 26, 31 and 32 were objected to because of noted informalities.

Amendments to these claims have been made in accordance with the Office Action, and with such amendments, the objections to Claims 22, 23, 25, 26, 31 and 32 under 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph, are believed to be overcome and the claims are now in condition for allowance.

3. **Rejection of Claim 33 under 35 USC 112, 2nd Paragraph**

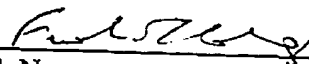
Claim 33 has been amended to claim a “robotic surgical system” instead of “robotic surgical tool”, and to recite the “processor” as part of the system, and with such amendments, the rejection of Claim 33 under 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph, is believed to be overcome and the claim is now in condition for allowance.

In addition, Claim 33 has been amended to delete the phrase “in response to the tool identifier” as being redundant since it is already stated that the verification data is derived by manipulating the tool identifier data according to a predetermined function; and also delete the phrase “wherein the signal transmitted to the processor further comprises the verification data” since this phrase is incongruent with the verification data being derived by the processor.

Claims 22-26, 29 and 31-33 are pending in the application. Claims 24 and 29 are allowed. Reconsideration of the rejected pending claims is respectfully requested, and an early notice of their allowance earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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